

July 24, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
ATTN: Commission Secretary
Marlene H. Dortch
445 12th ST., S.W., CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC Proceeding: Docket No. 03-167

Dear Commissioners:

As the Economic Development Director for Washington County, I urge you to approve SBC's application to provide long distance service in Ohio.

The simple laws of supply and demand tell us that with a slowly growing demand and a dramatic increase of the supply, rates should go down. A decrease in the overall telecommunications rates will provide every office supporting economic development, an additional magnet to attract more companies to Ohio. Low utility costs rank high on the list of reasons site selectors use in determining location for new industry. Decreased telecommunications costs will also help retain existing businesses.

SBC has been extremely supportive of every initiative that our county has undertaken to insure our economic well-being. Specifically they have not only fulfilled, but also exceeded the support needs of one of our corporate expansions that is directly responsible for adding 125 new jobs to Washington County in Ohio.

As a member of the Executive Board of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA), I have observed the technical and financial support of SBC to that organization, whose members come from 16 Appalachian Ohio counties.

Please accept my appreciation for your consideration of this request.

Very respectfully,

Douglas N. Grize
Director